THE ART EXHIBITION CATALOGUES OF THE VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM

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Modern French Tapestries

Victoria and Albert Museum

26th April - 22nd May, 1960

In Connection with the French Season

FOREWORD

The magnificent collection of ancient tapestries which is exhibited at the Victoria and Albert Museum to such advantage could hardly fail to interest visitors to the galleries, however little they might know about this art form.

But the amateur who is confronted, on first contact, with supreme examples of the art of weaving may run the risk of drawing the hasty conclusion that tapestry has no place in the world of today. Its dimensions being suited to ancient palaces and their inhabitants, it may appear to be beyond the reach of modern man, who has no rank or title and lacks the capital for acquiring, and the space for displaying, masterpieces of this order.

We must, therefore, thank the Director of the Victoria and Albert Museum, who has been kind enough to exhibit our most recent productions, for giving us this opportunity to show the general public in England that it is not essential to have large sums of money or extensive wall-space in order to become the owner of modern tapestries.

It is undoubtedly true that the National Factories of the Gobelins and Beauvais, in weaving large modern hangings commissioned by the State, are continuing a time-honoured tradition : but these establishments do not claim the monopoly in the art of tapestry, for it is given added lustre by the Aubusson manufacturers and craftsmen, whose work is particularly well adapted to the requirements and resources of a larger and less moneyed clientèle.

It is thus appropriate that the emphasis has been put on the production of the private workshops in the Aubusson area (19 out of 28 exhibits).

And although the fact that some of the screens are comparatively low has often, unfortunately, prevented us from including some interesting but very large pieces, it has, on the other hand, enabled us to show tapestries designed to fit into most private homes of today, as well as the halls and boardrooms of public buildings and commercial houses.

Given these material limitations, we have made out of a very few samples an exhibition as representative and balanced as possible and embodying the chief modern aesthetic trends which the art of tapestry follows particularly closely.

Are we to prefer among the pieces exhibited the abstract or the figurative ? We hope the discussion will sometimes be lively, as, from the organisers' point of view, public indifference would undoubtedly be the harshest judgment.

If differing opinions and a wide variety of tastes are expressed, we shall have achieved our essential aim : that of awakening the interest of visitors to the Victoria and Albert Museum in a medium which bears witness to the French artistic genius at the present as it did in the past.

HENRI GLEIZES.

This exhibition has been organised under the patronage of His Excellency the French Ambassador, by the Ministère des Affaires Etrangères and the Association Française d'Action Artistique, with the assistance of the Victoria and Albert Museum.

		Artist	*Loaned by*
1.	" The Lyre and the Night " 6' 3" × 9' 9" *Aubusson.* Pinton workshops	**Jean Lurçat**	Galerie " La Demeure "
2.	" Wine and the Corporal " 7' 8" × 9' 1" *Aubusson.* Tabard workshops	**Jean Lurçat**	Galerie " La Demeure "
3.	" The June Sun " 7' 4" × 11' 2" *Aubusson.* Berthaut workshops	**Jean Picart le Doux**	Galerie " La Demeure "
4.	" Before Man " 6' 7" × 11' 6" *Gobelins*	**René Fumeron**	Mobilier National
5.	" The fruit store " 3' 11" × 5' 7" *Gobelins*	**André Bauchant**	Mobilier National
6.	" Morning " 10' 7" × 10' 6" *Aubusson.* Legoueix workshops	**Marc Saint-Saens**	Mobilier National
7.	" Ceres and the Seasons " 10' 9" × 8' 8" *Gobelins*	**Roland Oudot**	Mobilier National
8.	" The enamelled Tree " 7' 0" × 5' 7" *Aubusson.* Goubely workshops	**Dom Robert**	Galerie " La Demeure "
9.	" Pierced Stone " 5' 1" × 7' 9" *Aubusson.* Picaud workshops	**Marc Petit**	Galerie " La Demeure "
10.	" Dove and Fig-Tree " 5' 1" × 3' 8" *Aubusson.* Braquenie workshops	**Etienne Poirier**	Galerie " La Demeure "
11.	" Autumn " 10' 7" × 6' 9" *Gobelins*	**Jacques Despierre**	Mobilier National
12.	" Winter " 10' 7" × 6' 9" *Gobelins*	**Jacques Despierre**	Mobilier National
13.	" The Bird Pond " 5' 11" × 6' 3" *Aubusson.* Goubely workshops	**Marcel Gromaire**	Mme. Goubely
14.	" The Dove-Cote " 4' 3" × 6' 1" *Aubusson.* Tabard workshops	**Jacques Villon**	Private collection

		Artist	*Loaned by*
15.	" Emerald Sun " 6' 7" × 9' 3" *Aubusson*. Pierre Legoueix workshops	**Louis-Marie Jullien**	Galerie " La Demeure "
16.	" January " 6' 7" × 4' 9" *Aubusson*. Pinton workshops	**Jean Piaubert**	Galerie " La Demeure "
17.	" Evolvere " 7' 5" × 13' 8" *Aubusson*. Tabard workshops	**Mathieu Matégot**	Galerie " La Demeure "
18.	" The Blue Nets " 7' 7" × 8' 11" *Aubusson*. Tapisseries de France workshops	**Maurice André**	Galerie " La Demeure "
19.	" Still Life " 7' 5" × 7' 7" *Aubusson*. Picaud workshops	**Charles-Edouard Le Corbusier**	Galerie " La Demeure "
20.	" Sailing Ships " 8' 11" × 7' 1" *Beauvais*	**Gustave Singier**	Mobilier National
21.	" Litany " 11' 7" × 6' 10" *Gobelins*	**Alfred Manessier**	Mobilier National
22.	" Sea-weed and sand " 5' 0" × 6' 2" *Aubusson*. Goubely workshops	**Michel Tourlière**	Galerie " La Demeure "
23.	" Circe's wood " 7' 8" × 11' 10" *Aubusson*. Goubely workshops	**Mario Prassinos**	Galerie " La Demeure "
24.	" Landscape with bull " 6' 10" × 8' 10" *Beauvais*	**Xavier Longobardi**	Mobilier National
25.	" Town " *Aubusson*. Tabard workshops	**Auguste Herbin**	Galerie Denise René
26.	" Marcel Samba " 9' 7" × 4' 10" *Beauvais*	**André Borderie**	Mobilier National
27.	Méandres " 9' 1" × 7' 6" *Aubusson*. Tabard workshops	**Victor Vasarely**	Galerie " La Demeure "
28.	" Fruit Shadow " 5' 3" × 4' 6" *Aubusson*. Tabard workshops	**Jean Arp**	Galerie Denise René
Hors Catalogue	" The Eagle of St. John " Panel of the large tapestry for Coventry Cathedral. 9' 10" × 6' 7" *Aubusson*. Pinton workshops	Design by **Graham Sutherland**	Mr. Basil Spence

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